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EXHIBIT OF ULTRA MODERN PAINTING

There have been a number of requests for an exhibition of modern art. There has been so much discussion, particularly since the exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum in New York City last summer, that the people of our city naturally and logically desire to know what it is all about.

The Post-Impressionist, Cubist and Futurist have so persistently brought their new conventions into the eye of the public, and some of them—notably Cezanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh and others—through the remarkable sincerity and vitality of their work have taken such a hold upon the world of contemporary achievement, that they can no longer be ignored.

We now find on the horizon the Expressionists, Dadaists, Simultaneists, and we do not know how many other "Ists" are yet to appear. Certain it is that there is a transition going on, that new conventions are being established, that the aims of painting are changing from obvious representation to a more abstract creation.

Generally speaking, Detroiters have hardly had an opportunity to see anything later than Impressionism. For the most part all of the "Ists" have been excluded because their aims and tendencies were not fully revealed—because we could not get sufficient perspective on them to determine their merit.

The Museum seems to be the only agency in Detroit at the present time to satisfy the demand for an exhibition of this radical nature. During the month of March we are going to exhibit a collection of modern paintings, many of them secured through the Société Anonyme, others borrowed from private collections. There will be examples of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse and Cezanne, with whose works the current world is now familiar. We are also presenting unfamiliar examples of present day manifestations in the world of art on which time alone can render an adequate verdict. We are exhibiting these to the people of Detroit for what they are worth. Let it be understood at the outset that because they are shown at the Museum is no reason that we put our stamp of approval upon them. We merely feel that the people of Detroit have a right to see what is current in the field of painting.

The Arts Commission anticipate much unfavorable criticism, but they believe that they are doing the people of Detroit a real service in giving them an opportunity to see the present day manifestations in the field of painting. On Wednesday evening, March 8th, Mr. Forbes Watson of New York City will give an illustrated lecture on "The Significance of Modern Painting," which may be of some guidance in the understanding of this exhibition.

C. H. B.